

In Remembrance of Chris Brownlie

To Chris Brownlie, a fallen yet exemplary warrior in our cause, this issue of our newsletter is dedicated. Brownlie, who played a pivotal supporting role in the initiation and continuing advancement of the Leadership Conference, died on November 28, 1989 from complications of AIDS.

Yet Brownlie's contributions continue to serve as inspiration and guide. Perhaps foremost was his foresight and ability to effectively integrate the advocacy and activism not only for AIDS support work but also for gay and minority rights. In addition, our remembrance of Chris serves as a valuable reminder that the attitudes and qualities we strive to reproduce are not necessarily limited by racial or ethnic backgrounds.

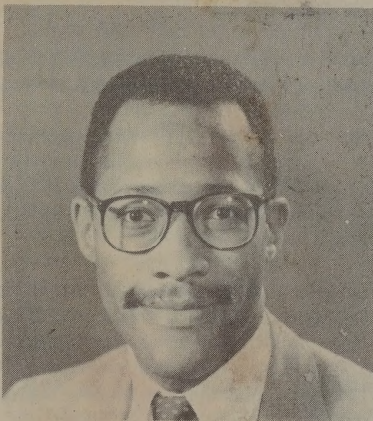
An ardent interracialist, Chris, along with his lifemate, Phill Wilson, focused on a number of projects promoting the interests of people of color. Together, he and Phill started Black is More Than Beautiful, Inc., and published the first mainstream photographic calendar featuring Black men. They also published a line of Black family greeting cards.

Brownlie served three years on the board of

Inside

Editorials	p.2
Women's Health	p.3
Cultural	p.5
From the Board	p.2

Keith St. John, elected Gay official, to speak at Conference in Atlanta



Keith St. John

Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles (BWMT). Chris urged BWMT, who had agreed to co-sponsor the first annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in 1988, to take a backseat in staging the event so that more Blacks would become involved. He played the conciliators role between Black and White AIDS activists in salvaging a plan to open an AIDS Hospice in South-Central L.A. which is expected to open in 1990. In 1989, Chris assisted in bringing openly gay South African anti-apartheid activist, Simon Nkoli to Los Angeles.

Brownlie was a singular personality in the volatile worlds of Los Angeles County politics and AIDS care.

Brownlie was a founder and board member

When Keith St. John trounced two opponents to gain the job of alderman in Albany's 2nd Ward, the relatively minor post belied the fact that his victory had established an electoral milestone. In amassing 75% of the vote, St. John overcame a self-described "double whammy" to become the nation's first openly gay Black man to gain elective office.

In a year that saw other electoral firsts for Blacks, including the Virginia governorship and the New York City mayoralty, St. John's victory may be more than symbolic.

"I am very happy and proud of my accomplishment, which undoubtedly means a great deal not only to the citizens of Albany, New York, but to the great minority and majority lesbian and gay community," St. John told BLK magazine. "I hope to represent change and empowerment and opportunity for the gay community especially of African-American descent to place its tears behind and speak out for what is just and right. Insidious discrimination will not be tolerated any longer."

St. John, 32, a soft-spoken man who ran on an anti-machine platform, also overcame one of the most virulent, negative campaigns in memory. The day before the election, gay bashing flyers were passed around his district terming the candidate "Sweet St. John," and asked voters to consider whether they "really want a man who finds [sodomy] religiously rewarding to represent you."

"Both of my opponents ran negative campaigns. It was the worst in terms of gay bashing in print," St. John said. "Luckily, voters were turned off by the negative campaigning. I was able to make my being gay a non-issue, as I believe it was," he said.

"One of the hallmarks of my campaign was to stick to the issues that were relevant to the community. I was a candidate who was Black and

The Forum Reappears

The Forum is making it's reappearance as the official newsletter of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. It is currently planned as a quarterly publication with the hope that in the very near future we will be able to publish on a bi-monthly basis. We would like this paper to become, as it's name implies, a place where ideas can be exchanged, issues freely discussed, and problems brought into focus. We welcome contributions from any and all sources. While not all material received can be published, all materials received will be considered by the editorial staff. We reserve the right to edit any material we publish, but promise it will be done with an eye towards preserving the integrity of the material.

Publishing a quality newsletter is, however, an expensive proposition and we, like most other non-profit organizations, find ourselves continually in need of cash. If you would like to make your contribution to the Leadership Forum in the form of a monetary gift, we have several classifications:

Patron for a donation of \$500.00 or more
Friend, for a donation of \$250.00
Donor, for a donation of \$100.00
Supporter, for a donation of \$50.00
Helpers, for a donation of any amount

All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Barbara Hudson,
Editor

Yolanda Whittington,
Asst. Editor

Contributing Writers

Katrice Jackson
Juan Lombard
Christine Tripp
Ruth Waters
Phill Wilson

Ken Carter,
Desktop Publishing

Editorial

Visibility

How many of us have ever wished we had the power of invisibility? Most of us have at one time or another been in a situation where we wished we could disappear, say the magic words and, poof! vanish from sight. Years ago there was a popular movie called *The Invisible Man* in which a human unwraps, disrobes and becomes invisible. An implied lesson? Invisibility protects.

Back in the 1950's when that particular movie was popular, it was widely believed that invisibility was a form of protection. If you couldn't be seen, you couldn't be harmed. Today we know that invisibility merely hides-- it does not protect. We have come to realize that if invisibility has any effect at all, it is one of weakening, rather than protecting.

As Blacks we were once counseled to become invisible, to fit in, not make waves, go slow, be a model for our race. As Black gays and lesbians, it was even more important to remain invisible because gains we had made as Blacks could/would be lost if it became known we were gay or lesbian.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's exploded that myth. It taught us that if you cannot be seen, you are not going to be heard. If you cannot be heard, you are not going to be helped.

Today, now for our future as Black gays and lesbians, we must come to grips with the fact that there is no safety in invisibility, that to remain invisible is to give our power away. We need to understand there is strength in unity; there is a real power in number. The collective voice always speaks louder than the single voice and will not be denied. It demands to be and will be heard.

If we are to create a viable future, not just for ourselves but for Black gays and lesbians everywhere, we must each of us commit ourselves to becoming more visible. I am not advocating that we all march down the streets waving banners proclaiming our sexuality. We know what we can be comfortable with. But I am asking that we push that comfort level a little, that we extend it bit by bit, a step at a time-- more than yesterday, but less than tomorrow.

An old Chinese proverb says a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. When you take that first step, don't look back for your brothers and sisters. Look to your left, and to your right. We will be standing there beside you.

-- Barbara Hudson, Editor

From the Board...

CREATING OUR FUTURE

Creating Our Future, a strong, empowering statement, and somewhat frightening when we realize that many of us have not gotten in touch with our creative selves. A great many of us seem to live our lives by the dictates of people and things sometimes not remotely connected to ourselves. Today is the best time to take a really good look at who you are. Do you like what see? Does that person run your life or do you allow demons from the past to take over most of the time? We Black lesbians and gays can and do find demons wherever we care to look, usually from the recesses of our self-imposed dark and lonely closets.

This is not to say that there is nothing out there to fear. The important thing to know is that nothing is worse than the products of fear that cause one to do untold damage to self. After realizing how special you are (in the positive or negative), there is the challenge to begin the creative process of creating the you that will be in charge of your future. Hopefully, that person collectively will be there working to stop the erosion of our civil rights, opening closet doors, working to help empower one another by sharing our talents and abilities while allowing for the richness of our diversities without the need for negative criticism.

LET'S GET BUSY AND CREATE OUR GREAT, BRIGHT FUTURE

-- Ruth Waters

Women's Health : *Be Good To Yourself*

Since Africans were first introduced to America's diabolical societal system, our general health and emotional needs have been ignored. The psychological battles continue in an oftentimes covert manner. We as Black lesbians must call upon the inner strengths that we have for so long tried to suppress.

Black women, the fountainhead of a superb race of people from craftswomen to artist, from chambermaids to astronauts, will continue to blossom forth in the 90's. The road we travelled has never been an easy one, and to ensure our ongoing growth and development, we must devise an agenda for the coming decade, one that will assure our continued success.

An important aspect of this progression is establishing a vigilant and aggressive total health maintenance program, one that addresses both our physical and psychological well being. We should resolve to enhance our educational process to minimize the number of Black lesbians who continue to die at an alarming rate from breast cancer, hypertension, diabetes, substance abuse, etc.

Accordingly, we should acknowledge the mutilation of our self-esteem and confidence and recognize the damage being done to our physical and psychical realities. When the impact of these factors are realized we can begin to strive for assertiveness in our interactions with people and the circumstances they bring into our existence. We should then be able to cultivate a new attitude concerning our personal well-being and develop a sense of achievement in our day-to-day encounters.

A regular exercise program should be established to relieve our bodies of the daily stresses and tensions we accumulate. In addition, we should set aside some quiet time to journey to that special place where no one else can go, where we can align our personal essence to harmonize and bond our body, mind, and soul.

Triumph in the knowledge that the female body symbolizes the finest creation of all.

Even before there was a recorded history, artists immortalized women in their sculptures and drawings. Recognize yourself as the goddess you truly are. Resolve to take care of yourself. You deserve to feel good and to treat yourself as the precious commodity you are, Black female, proud, beautiful, and healthy.

- Christine Tripp

Men's Death Rate Higher in Harlem Than in Bangladesh

New York- Black men in Harlem are less likely to live to the age of 65 than men in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations, according to a study today in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study comparing the Manhattan neighborhood just north of Central park with Bangladesh concluded that for women, overall survival to the age of 65 was somewhat better in Harlem, but only because the death rate among girls under 5 is very high in Bangladesh.

In that nation, the researchers said that 55% of men and 50% of women live to be 65. In Harlem, 40% of men and 65% of women reach 65 years of age.

"The situation in Harlem is extreme," the report compiled by Drs. Colin McCord and Harold P. Freeman of Columbia University and Harlem Hospital said, "but it is not an isolated phenomenon....Similar pockets of high mortality have been described in other U.S. cities."

"In recent decades, mortality rates have declined for both White and non-White Americans, but national averages obscure the extremely high mortality rates in many inner-city communities," the researchers said. The high death rate in such areas deserves attention similar to that "given to natural disaster areas," they said.

The researchers found that during the years of the study, from 1979 to 1981, there were 6,415 deaths in Harlem, where 96% of the population is Black and 41% live below the poverty line. But if the death rate among U.S. Whites had been applied to the commu-

nity, there would have been only 3,994 deaths.

Cirrhosis, homicide, accidents, drug dependency and alcohol use were considered the most important underlying cause of death in 35% of all those under 65.

"An improvement in child mortality in Harlem between 1960 and 1980 was accompanied by rising mortality rates for persons, between the ages of 25 and 65," the article said. "There was, therefore, no improvement in overall age-adjusted mortality."

In an interview, McCord, attending surgeon at Harlem Hospital, said he had worked in Bangladesh and that after seeing New York City death rate statistics he was not surprised at the findings.

"I think Americans have had the idea that things were improving for Black people," he said. But the study should dispel the notion that the gap between Whites and Blacks is narrowing, he said, noting that 650,000 people live in communities in New York where the death rate for those under 65 is twice the death rate for White Americans.

The article said that since 1980, the number of deaths among Harlem residents 25 to 44 years old had increased by 31% and AIDS had become the most common cause of death in this age group and in all of New York City.

McCord and Freeman stressed that action to correct "the appalling health conditions reflected in these statistics" need not wait for more research.

"The health care system is overloaded...and is poorly structured to support preventative measures, detect disease early and care for adults with chronic problems. At the same time, the population at highest risk has limited contact with the health care system except in emergencies.

"...New approaches must be developed to take preventative and therapeutic measures out of the hospitals, clinics, and emergency rooms and deliver them to the population at highest risk," they said.

Reprinted from the LA Times

In Remembrance

continued from page 1

of the AIDS Hospice Foundation, an organization which established the first licensed residential hospice for people in the final stages of AIDS in Los Angeles. When it was opened on December 26, 1988, it was named the Chris Brownlie Hospice in his honor.

An early activist in AIDS care advocacy, Chris was a key figure in the successful effort to open a designated AIDS ward in the L.A. County/USC Hospital. He was one of the Minority AIDS Project's first volunteers where he designed the Project's computer system. He also carried in and set up the first bed in Dignity House, a shelter for homeless persons with AIDS, and served on AIDS Project Los Angeles' hotline.

In 1986, Brownlie and other activists created the Stop AIDS Quarantine Committee that mounted a successful campaign against Proposition 64, a California ballot initiative which would have mandated detention of all persons who tested positive for AIDS. A highlight of that campaign was a torchlight March on the headquarters of Lyndon LaRouche, sponsor of the initiative, followed by a rally.

In February of 1987, Chris was diagnosed with AIDS. Even while fighting off eight bouts of pneumocystis pneumonia, two attacks of cryptococcus meningitis, and a potentially blinding CMV retinitis infection, he remained active in the movement for AIDS Hospice care. Through his willingness to back up well reasoned arguments for expanded health care by exposing the most intimate details of his own suffering, he surfaced as an outspoken person with AIDS, representing those whose fear of discrimination kept them silent.

He published a column, "Liberation Politics," in a gay and lesbian publication, *The News*, which helped him to become well known in the Los Angeles gay and lesbian community as a journalist and thinker with a wide range of concerns. He was a firm advocate of gay and lesbian self-respect, but he could also recognize his weaknesses as well as the weaknesses of those around him,

and write about them with honesty and understanding. He was featured in Nancy Salter's KCET Journal, "Living the Last Days," about the Chris Brownlie Hospice. His most recent writing was published in the L.A. Weekly shortly after his death. A book of his writings is being planned for a 1990 release.

Two memorial funds have been established in Chris' name. The Chris Brownlie Scholarship Fund has been established by Jewell Williams, owner of Catch One. The first use of this fund will be to assist African-American people with AIDS to attend the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in Atlanta.

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is establishing a fund to help the surviving partners of PWA's during the transition period from grief to recovery.

Donations to both or either fund may be sent to the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 3924 W. Sunset Blvd, Suite #1, Los Angeles, CA, 90029.

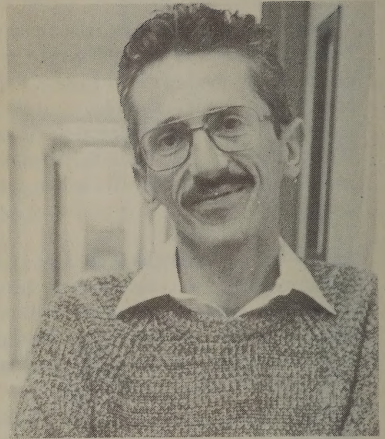
- Juan Lombard

Brownlie In His Own Words

The only meaningful question, which was finally put rather heatedly by a best friend was, "Do you want to fight for your life?"

Put that way, the question gave me a way of galvanizing my courage and lust for life. Prior to the moment of the asking of the question, I had no conceptual framework to face my disease aggressively. Understanding that I was faced with a challenge, instead of a fait accompli, allowed me a choice. Having a choice is freedom.

The other liberating thing about considering my remaining time to be a struggle for life as opposed to a vigil for death was that it also let



Chris Brownlie

me have some perspective about the odds, which favor not surviving AIDS. I could look at that rationally, not trapped by denial and obsession, which are the two sides of the doom coin. Yes, the probability was that I would die from this disease, but nonetheless, there was hope, and more importantly, I could choose to look at my process as life-affirming.

"Understanding that I was faced with a challenge, instead of a fait accompli, allowed me a choice. Having a choice is freedom."

I became free from the need to always face death profoundly. I could face it lightly, or not at all. I could be strong or weak, scared or bored. Death is one more part of a human being's life. How much weight given to it is a function of physicality and psychology working together. The person in charge of that synthesis was me.

- Chris Brownlie

"Well, I must have come out when I was eight years old. To tell the truth, I never was in, so I must have been out!"

- Mabel Hampton

THE PERSONAL, THE ORGANIZATIONAL, THE POLITICAL

by Phill Wilson

THE PERSONAL

This last year has not been an easy one. It has been full of sadness so complete to cause me to doubt the possibility of my own survival. It has been full of Joy that has shocked me by it's mere presence. It has been full of anger so sharp and so deep to prevent me from seeing the possibilities of our future. And, it has been full of a pride which has allowed me to see that our possibilities are without limit.

Many of you know that my life partner of 10 years, Chris Brownlie, died last November. To all of you who have given me your support and condolences during the last few months, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your letters and cards. Thank you for your flowers and calls. Thank you for your love and your prayers. You have given me a gift that I will hold always. The knowledge that we are a community. We are a family! In these times when most of us find our sustenance through love and faith, on behalf of Chris, myself and our Family, please accept my gratitude for your love and your faith during these trying times.

THE POLITICAL

It's 1990, the first year of the last decade of the 20th century. We must take this time to set the moral and ethical tone for this decade. It is our

last opportunity to impact the legacy of this century. A century born out of the promise of the industrial revolution. A century brought to age through two world wars. A century which entered midlife with the hope of equality and justice for all it's people; only to destroy that hope with calousness and indifference. And a century which is going to end in the darkness of the tragedies of oppression and human neglect.

It is time to plot our future: to move ahead, to set agendas, to accept challenges, to take risks, to win battles.

The last ten years have been discouraging: the nine years of Reagan/Bush administration policies; a supreme court with an increasingly right wing view on individual rights; the Hardwick decision and the undermining of Roe vs. Wade. The criminally inadequate funding for AIDS research and education, and medical care for people with AIDS; or the painfully slow progress in Congress on federal civil rights legislation.

As we gather in Atlanta for the third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, we must know that it is not enough to gather once a year, to speak out once a year or to speak to each other only once a year. We must in all the places where our people can be found. IWe must be there every day. We must be there so they can see us, and hear us, and feel our pain and our sadness and our rage. We must let world know we will not be ignored. We will not be shut out. IWe will not

be murdered in silence. We will not be quiet.

The world is full of threats and anxieties. Just making it through one day can be a heroic undertaking. Making it through a life without succumbing to pettiness, greed, deceit, or without choosing dishonorable solutions to problems is probably impossible. Yet knowing this, we must pledge our best to one another.

There are heroes among us. We show our heroism in our caring for the sick and the dying. We show our heroism in the battles we fight for the shut out and the discarded. We show are heroism in the love we share with each other.

I say this every where I go, because I believe it so. The day will come when they will write about this time. when they do let the records show that this community dared to care in the face of the horror. Let the record show that This community dared to fight because of the injustices. Let the record show that This Community dared to love in spite of the hatred. Know this, when you care, when you fight injustices and when you love; you live forever!

Keith St. John

continued from page 1

gay, but I wasn't running on any single issue," he said.

In winning the race, St. John defeated incumbent alderman Arthur Scott, who upon losing the Democratic primary, got the Conservative Party nod. The primary win was not without controversy. Though initial results showed St. John won by 165 votes, a last-second flurry of absentee ballots from a senior citizens' home cut the margin to three votes. Four lawsuits later, St. John was declared the winner.

"I think it's a monumental achievement for our community," said Libby Post, spokeswoman for the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby. "For an urban area like Albany, with the demographics of that ward for people to rise above the petty homophobia that came from the opposition is a great statement."

St. John, a lawyer, was born in Manhattan, and raised in White Plains. He graduated from Yale University and Cornell University Law School.

Mr. St. John is slated to deliver the keynote address at the Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

-- Excerpted by permission from BLK

Lunch With The Girls

Had lunch in the cafeteria with the girls from the office today
Jackie said, chile did you see that Rock Hudson movie on T.V. last night
I didn't know he was that way

Yeah said Yolanda, a lot of those Hollywood He Mans was a little light in the loafers
Heard the same thang about Cary Grant
Imagine, a man like that bendin' over

Forget about Hollywood girl, cus we has sum a dem dykes right up in here
Remember back when Cheryl was fired, said Tina
Caught in the supply room with her tongue in Tracy'syou know where

Marva said, ya know, I think Dina in the records department has a lesbian air
Three holes in her ear and that slick butch hair cut
I can spot her kind anywhere

Hey, Kim, why are you so quiet
Ain't said nothin' since we sat down, said Fay
Got your mouth all twisted up like you gonna riot

Kim stunned them with the next words that came and glued to their chairs they sat
You queer experts ben eatin' lunch with this dyke for almost a year
Now, how come you never figured that

Katrice J. Jackson

Forum Announces Board Selection

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum exists to strengthen existing institutions serving Black Gay and Lesbian people. The Forum addresses cultural pluralism by creating bridges to communities not connected to the Lesbian and Gay elements within their own ranks. BGLLF serves as a resource to educate and inform other groups about the Lesbian and Gay experience and history that is unique to Black Americans.

In order to be more effective in meeting the needs of our unique community, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is proud to announce the formation of a Board of Directors. The Board consists of a male and female co-chair, a secretary, a treasurer, a director of development, a director of outreach, and an ad hoc director.

The Co-chairs are Ruth Waters and Phill

Wilson. They will preside over all meetings, and will have final authority over the conduct of all meetings/events sponsored by the BGLLF.

The Secretary is Leonard Simon. His duties will include the maintenance of official records and documents, recording and posting meeting minutes and votes of the Board of Directors.

Juan Lombard, as the Treasurer, will be responsible for fiscal affairs, safeguarding monies, making authorized disbursements, and preparing the annual budget.

Sheila Rice is the Director of Development. As such, she will be seeking funding sources for the BGLLF, the Conference, and other BGLLF sponsored activities.

Anita Barnes, the Outreach Director, is re-

sponsible for media coverage, and will be a liaison with Black non-gay and non-Black Lesbian and Gay organizations.

Dennis Odums is the Ad Hoc Director. He will address specific issues and problems not under the aegis of other standing committees or assist other board members as needed.

In coming issues of The Forum, we will spotlight individual members of the Board of Directors so you may become more familiar with them, not only as members of the Board, but also as individuals in our community who are very much involved with achieving the goals of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

- Barbara Hudson

Third Annual Conference in Atlanta

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (BGLLF) is sponsoring the Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Health Institute. The Conference, to be held February 16 through 19 at the Hyatt Regency Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia, is being hosted by the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA). The Conference will be a four-day forum revolving around the theme "Celebrating Our History, Creating Our Future."

The Health Institute will open the Forum on Friday, February 16. This will be one day of intensive training for individuals interested in learning about the unique health issues of Black gays and lesbians. The Institute will be divided into three areas of concentration, Women's Health Concerns, Chemical Dependency, and HIV Disease/AIDS.

The Black Gay and Lesbian Conference will begin on Saturday, February 17 and continue through Sunday, February 18. This

third annual conference will bring together Black gays and lesbians to share experiences and set positive agendas for the decade of the 90's. There will be two days of workshops, speakers, a banquet, a luncheon, and cultural activities in the City of Atlanta.

Keith St. John, the country's first openly Black, gay elected official, will deliver the keynote address.

A number of awards will be presented at the Conference recognizing people for their activism on behalf of Black gays and lesbians. Among these will be the Bayard Rustin award for political activism, the Harriet Tubman award to be presented to an organization, the Frederick Garnett Memorial AIDS award, and the James Baldwin Arts and Letters award.

Conference attendees from the east coast will be able to travel via the Midnight Train to Georgia, a specially chartered Amtrak car. They will be kept entertained by a num-

ber of onboard events planned especially for them.

AALGA is planning a number of special events in Atlanta for Conference goers. Among them will be cultural events, concerts, tours, and a National AIDS luncheon featuring a fashion show.

The Conference will close with a Leadership Roundtable, co-sponsored by the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, and co-facilitated by Angela Bowen and Phill Wilson. This will be a half-day strategy for representatives of local, regional, and national gay/lesbian organizations. A strong and proud Black gay and lesbian community is emerging all across America. In the midst of homophobia, AIDS discrimination, sexism, and racism, this community can play an important role in combatting these forms of oppression and empower others to join the fight.

- Barbara Hudson

Educational and Promotional Materials from

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

Item Name	Unit Price	Quantity	Cost
*Rubbers - Every Time! poster series:			
"If you really love him..." (a) †	25.00 *	_____	_____
"If you really love him..." (b) †	25.00 *	_____	_____
"No Glove, No Love." †	25.00 *	_____	_____
"You Can't Play Without the Right Equipment!"	25.00 *	_____	_____
"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" †	25.00 *	_____	_____
*Rubbers - Every Time! assorted set (2 each of all 5)	25.00	_____	_____
*Rubbers - Every Time! complete set (10 each of all 5)	100.00	_____	_____
*We Have a Legacy" - videotape (VHS)	49.00	_____	_____
A retrospective of the Black Gay and Lesbian experience through the ages.			

Total _____

* A set of 10 posters

† Produced in partnership with the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, a
project of NABWMT

Ordering Information:

- Make checks payable to: BGLLF
- Allow 3-4 weeks for shipping
- Price includes shipping & handling

Ship To: _____

For more information, call:
213/666-5495

**Because Strong Leadership
Leads to a Stronger Community**

Mail Orders to:

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum
3924 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1
Los Angeles, CA 90029

Disclaimer

The Forum is published by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 3924 W Sunset Blvd, Suite #1, Los Angeles, CA, 90029.

The Forum is published quarterly. Unsolicited, short manuscripts, letters to the editor, poetry and other correspondence is welcomed. We cannot acknowledge or return unsolicited material unless it is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All submissions are subject to edit. Articles may be submitted to the attention of the editor, Barbara Hudson, at the above address.

Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of any persons or organizations in articles, advertising or listings in the Forum is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such persons or organizations. Opinions expressed other than editorial are not necessarily those of the newsletter.

Please Help Support the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

I would like to be a (check one) :

In order to continue this publication, and other work of *The Forum*, we need your support. Please select from the donation categories listed

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| ☐ Patron | \$500 or more |
| ☐ Friend | \$250 |
| ☐ Donor | \$100 |
| ☐ Supporter | \$50 |
| ☐ Helper | under \$50 |

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, ZIP _____

Please mail your donation to **The Forum**, 3924 W. Sunset Blvd, Suite #1,
Los Angeles, CA, 90029

Thank you for your support!

Come and Catch Them, Live!

Teren & Danan

Appearing Sunday, March 11
8:30 pm show

at the

Rose Tattoo
665 N. Robertson Blvd.

Sponsored by the
BLACK LEADERSHIP FORUM



BLACK

"If you're in the mood for some good, R&B Adult Contemporary music, you won't want to miss them... one of LA's hottest, young acts."

- LA Reader

"Two bright, young, attractive guys... beautiful to watch; beautiful to listen to. Definitely one of tomorrow's shining stars."

- Sunday Review

Cover charge \$7.00
2 drink minimum

Alcoholic beverages
and menu available

For more information, call (213) 481-8384



THE FORUM

3924 W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 1
Los Angeles, CA 90029

BLACK

THE BLACK FORUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE BLACK GAY & LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK
GAY & LESBIAN CONFERENCE &
HEALTH INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1990

WELCOME TO THE OVER 400 PARTICIPANTS OF THIS YEAR'S
CONFERENCE — AND WE'RE STILL ARRIVING!!!

Bringing It All Home

In keeping with the conference theme, "Celebrating Our History, Creating Our Future," Friday's opening activities set the stage for an exciting weekend which offers us all the opportunity to share our varied talents and envision a community that empowers us all. Friday's workshops were well attended. The keynote speakers challenged conference participants to work towards the physical and emotional strengthening of Black gay and lesbian communities.

WORKSHOP TAPES AVAILABLE

Audio cassette tapes are being made of all workshop sessions. If you missed a workshop of interest to you, or if you would like to have a permanent record of the information discussed in particular workshop, contact Ricky Verble. Ricky has set up a tape sales area across from the Registration desk.

In addition to workshops, Ricky is also recording the general sessions and keynotes.

Tapes are \$7.50 each. Ask about his discount for purchasing 2 or more selections.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

As of Friday evening, approximately 400 people had registered for the conference and new participants were still arriving. All regions of the country are represented, with attendees from Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and lots of Californians, of course! Illinois, Maine, Texas, Washington, District of Columbia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Florida, Connecticut, Tennessee, Missouri and New Jersey are just a few of the places black lesbians and gay people. A special welcome to participants from Jamaica.

FRIDAY'S KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

A special note of thanks to Friday's keynote speakers: Byllye Avery, Executive Director of the National Black Women's Health Project; Dr. Jacob Gayle, Coordinator of Minority Concerns for the HIV section of the Centers for Disease Control; and Jane Johnson, Vice President of the National Association of Planned Parenthood of America.

You provided us with much food for thought and encouraged us to continue the joy as well as the struggle towards creating community.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A powerfully moving memorial service was held Friday evening in the Alvin Ailey Room. We came together as a community to honor, remember and celebrate the lives of Pat Parker, Joe Beam, Mabel Hampton, Lawrence Washington, Alvin Ailey, Chris Brownlie — just a few of the recent loses to the Black Gay and Lesbian community in particular, and the lesbian and gay community in general. Quilt panels for Chris Brownlie and Elray Sanders-Andrews were presented by Steve Feeback of the National Association of Black and White Men Together.

Standing as a group we called the names of those we loved and invited their spirits to "Move here with us!"

A special thanks to Phill Wilson for coordinating the service and to Phill, Jackie Bishop, Craig Harris, Ayofemi, George Bellinger, Jr., Jerome Woods — for choreographing the beautiful dance tribute to Alvin Ailey, Elloyd Napier, Angela Bowen, Lavender Light and Sabrina Sojourner for their participation in making the event an indescribable evening.

SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies and thoughts of support go out to Mrs. Cheryl Lomax, wife of Fulton County Commission Chairman, Michael Lomax. Cheryl's brother died tragically in a car accident. Cheryl and Michael have been strong and active supporters of the Atlanta Lesbian and Gay community. They had planned to join us during our opening plenary on Saturday.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Due to inclement weather in New York, Keith St. Johns, openly gay Albany city alderman, was unable to attend the conference. He was scheduled to deliver Saturday morning's keynote address. We wish him much success in his work for his district and for our community.

Cancelled: Phill Wilson's workshop — Black, Male and Sexy — has been cancelled.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS, LATELY?

If you haven't, then you'll want to check out the BGLLF Bookstore especially put together for this conference.

Barbara Hudson, Mark Haile, and Vera Martin are all part of staff running the store. With nearly 200 titles — From *Ridin' the Moon in Texas* by Ntozake Shange; *Home Girls*, by Barbara Smith; to *About Courage* by Mickey G. Fleming, *Zami* by Audre Lorde and a full range of magazines such as *Conditions*, *Outlook* and *BlackOut*.

Also available are videos including Dr. Sylvia Rhue's "We Have a Legacy," an important documentary on Black lesbian and gay history. And what would a conference be without our favorite souvenir item of comfort and choice — The Ever Dependable T-SHIRT!!!

Announcement

Aerobics Workshop
Kevin Greene, instructor
Saturday, February 17th.
3:45 p.m.
Pat Parker Room

